

Docket No. 217 – Development and Management Plan Inspection

Northeast Utilities Service Company Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction of a 345-kV electric transmission line and reconstruction of an existing 115-kV electric transmission line between Connecticut Light and Power Company's Plumtree Substation in Bethel, through the towns of Redding, Weston, and Wilton, and to the Norwalk Substation in Norwalk, Connecticut.

Date: June 1, 2006

Inspector: Don Ukers

Location: Overhead Line (Composite 345kV and 115kV Gallows Hill to Archers Lane,
345kV H-Frame Hoyts Hill to Gallows Hill, and Norwalk Section)

Storm/

Rain Event: Between 0.45-0.57" of rain was recorded on 6/1 as reported by NOAA
and depending on location..

Areas of Inspection	Observation	Recommended Action	Corrective Action
Access Roads and Adjacent Roadways	- The Composite ROW work is accessible from Gallows Hill Rd by an existing trail path with a swing gate, an approved access path in from the east of the ROW, an access road passing through the Archers Lane substation, and an area cleared from the station to the ROW. 6/1/06.	- If necessary, additional measures for stability should be considered for access needs. If any areas still have ruts at the end of the work, they will need to be regraded to return to original conditions. 12/8-6/1/06.	-N/A until evaluation at the end of work.
Composite	- Active clearing was not noted past Archers Lane. Wood chips have been blown off the cleared ROW in some areas. See the vegetative clearing section for more details. 3/2-6/1/06.	-See vegetative clearing section for details and recommendations. 5/25/06.	- Still needs attention
	- A few spots along the access road in from Archers Lane have sediment nearly overtopping the silt fence. 6/1/06.	- Repairs should be made either by transition station or overhead crews. Sediment needs to be removed. 6/1/06.	-Needs attention- also see transition station report.
345kV H-Frame	- Other work areas are accessed from Hoyts	-Continue to monitor the conditions of all access	- N/A at this time

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Norwalk Section	Hill, Chestnut Ridge Rd, the Bethel Res. water plant road, Lime Kiln Rd, Whortleberry Rd, John Todd Way and Costa Lane. Wood chips or stone dust were placed along a majority of the access roads. 3/29-6/1/06.	roads. If muddy conditions re-occur, place more wood chips or consider installing silt fence as needed. 6/1/06.	-Continue to evaluate
	- Some ruts were noted in the access road between poles #5-6. 5/25-6/1/06	- More wood chips and some repair to the ruts may be necessary. 5/25-6/1/06	- Needs attention when feasible.
	- All wetland crossings are still matted and in good shape. 6/1/06	- Continue to monitor. 6/1/06	-N/A
	- A vehicle accidentally drove through the wetland between poles #10-11 after mats were removed. Some ruts were created but the water main was not damaged. 5/25-6/1/06	- See erosion control section for more details but ruts should be smoothed out and additional controls installed. 5/25-6/1/06 A sign was installed to prevent further trips	- Needs attention
	- Stone dust and/or gravel access roads are in place at Perry Ave and Broad St. 4/6-6/1/06.	- Controls are in place. 6/1/06.	- N/A at this time
	-Access is gained to new work areas off North Seir Hill Rd. Dust access roads were also completed off Kent Rd. in both directions. 5/25-6/1/06	-Silt fence was installed along the entire edge of one section of road. Monitor and install more controls if necessary 5/25-6/1/06.	- N/A at this time
	-Several wetlands are matted here and some now have silt fence installed at the corners. A few areas still need controls. 5/25-6/1/06	- Continue to install haybales (or silt fence) at the corners of the wetland crossings to prevent run-off from the access road to the wetland. 6/1/06.	- More matted crossings from last week now have controls. A few still need attention

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Line Construction Composite	- The upper wire had been installed in the structures leading into Archers Lane. 5/25-6/1/06.	- See erosion controls section for more information. 5/25-6/1/06.	-N/A
345kV H-Frame	- Shield wire was being installed and clipped in this section at the time of inspection, in the area of Hoyts Hill and Costa Lane. 6/1/06.	- None at this time. 6/1/06.	-N/A
Norwalk Section	- Anchors were also being installed off John Todd Rd. 6/1/06	- None at this time. 6/1/06	
	- No active work was noted between Perry Ave. and the Rt 7 extension but old towers had been taken down south of Perry Ave. 6/1/06.	-See erosion controls section for more information. 6/1/06.	-N/A
	- A number of foundations (#68, 69, 72) were poured off North Seir Hill Rd. Poles #70 and 71 were installed. 6/1/06	- See erosion controls section for more information. 6/1/06.	- N/A
	- Old towers were taken down south of Kent Rd. 6/1/06	- None at this time.	- N/A
	- Access road construction was complete up to the pond in the new ROW section off Kent Rd. 6/1/06	- See erosion controls section for more information. 6/1/06	- N/A
Erosion and Sediment Controls	- Water levels appear to remain below problem levels at the 2 nd wetland crossing along the Archers Lane access road. 2/16-6/1/06.	- None at this time. 6/1/06.	-N/A
Composite	- Silt fence is being	-All areas should be	- Needs attention from

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Erosion controls continued	overtopped in several places by sediment from run-off on the access road past Archers Lane. 6/1/06	repaired with silt pulled back and removed from the wetland. 6/1/06	either transition station or overhead crews
	- Wood chips had been blown into the uplands and wetland area at the third structure in from Gallows Hill Road. 2/22-6/1/06. Another area with deep wood chips off the cleared ROW remains past Archers Lane. 3/15-6/1/06.	-Make sure chips stay on the ROW. Contractors should remove the off ROW chips since this is not allowed in the D&M plan. 2/22-6/1/06. - Wood chips on the ROW can remain at a depth of 3". Deeper piles should be spread out. 4/6-6/1/06.	-Still needs attention (CL&P is looking into a solution here)
345kV H-Frame Chestnut Ridge Section	- An old stockpile was noted at a structure before Rt 53 off Gallows Hill. 5/17-6/1/06	-Make sure that restoration occurs in previously disturbed areas and that materials are removed and not forgotten in place. 5/17-6/1/06	- Needs attention when feasible
	- Some run-off was noted along the slope near pole #2. 6/1/06	- Some haybales could be placed along the slope to slow run-off velocity if necessary. 6/1/06	- Needs attention if necessary
Bethel Reservoir Section to Chestnut Ridge Rd.	-The majority of the pile at structure#6 has been removed but soil remains encroaching on wetlands 4/12-6/1/06.	- Remove the soil here as soon as conditions can support this without further impact. 2/22-6/1/06.	- Needs attention when feasible
	- The silt fence by structure #9 has been maintained. The adjacent disturbed area should be restored if feasible. 5/17-6/1/06.	-Provide mulch and seed for stabilization 5/17-6/1/06.	-Fence was maintained
	- Silt fence and mats remain in place in a number of locations in this section. 4/6-6/1/06.	- Continue to monitor for any muddy conditions or need for repairs. All observed controls remain in good condition. 4/6-6/1/06.	-N/A

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<p>Costa Lane, Whortleberry, Lime Kiln and John Todd Way</p> <p>Norwalk Section</p>	- A vehicle accidentally crossed the stream & wetland between poles #10-11. Some ruts were created in the wetland. 6/1/06	-Any ruts in the stream or wetland should be smoothed out. (No damage to the water main had occurred.) 5/25-6/1/06	- Needs attention
	Disturbed soil remained on the access road adjacent to the wetland. 5/17-6/1/06.	Additional controls should be placed across the ROW to prevent sedimentation. 5/17-6/1/06	- Needs attention
	-Mats are in place at the wetland crossing in the vicinity of pole #29. 3/2-4/6-6/1/06.	-Continue to monitor the crossing for increasing muddy conditions and install silt fence as needed. 3/2-6/1/06.	-N/A at this time
	-Silt fence near structure #28 is being monitored and repaired as needed. 6/1/06.	-Continue to monitor .Wetlands are not located immediately adjacent. 6/1/06.	- Silt fence is being monitored
	-Erosion controls remain intact at poles #24 and 25 and further washouts were not noted. 6/1/06.	-Maintain controls until areas surrounding the foundation are stabilized. 6/1/06	-N/A
	-The area of silt fence south of Perry Ave. had sediment piled up against it again. 6/1/06.	-The fence has been monitored and regularly cleaned out but this is needed again. 6/1/06.	-Needs attention again
	- The foundation near the Norwalk substation has good silt fence coverage. 5/17-6/1/06.	-Continue to monitor due to proximity of the river. Consider picking up adjacent debris left behind by the river. 6/1/06	-Silt fence was repaired.
	- Mats were installed at foundation #68 on North Seir Hill Rd. due to wet conditions. 6/1/06	-Install silt fence downgradient of the mats if necessary. 6/1/06.	-Mats were used to prevent ruts.
	- A new wetland crossing in the Kent Rd, new ROW section, was noted without corner controls. 6/1/06	-Haybales or silt fence will be installed at the corners of the mat crossings to prevent runoff from the access	-Needs attention.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wood chips were also entering the edge of the wetland here 6/1/06 - The swale leading into a wetland area in this section will also need controls. 5/25-6/1/06 - Clearing occurred up to the pond in this location. 6/1/06 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> road. 6/1/06. - Ensure wood chips are not blown into wetlands. - Install erosion controls along the tree line to prevent run-off to the wetland. 5/25-6/1/06 - Crews were preparing to install silt fence. 6/1/06 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Needs attention when feasible. - Needs attention
Inland Wetland and Watercourse encroachment and mitigation	-The D&M plan approved stone on geotextile fabric at the wetland crossings have worked well. 4/6-6/1/06.	- As the access is considered temporary, the stone will be removed when final work ends so the wetlands can be restored. 1/26-6/1/06.	-N/A until evaluated at the end of work.
Composite	- Direct damage was noted in the wetland at the 3 rd crossing as a result of equipment slipping. 2/16-6/1/06.	- The damage to the 3 rd wetland should be repaired if feasible but it may be more damaging to go in at this time. 5/4-6/1/06.	-N/A
345kV H-Frame	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At structure #6, most of the mud was removed from the wetland and they will continue to do so. 4/6-6/1/06. - A vehicle had accidentally tracked through the wetland between #10-11 last week. 6/1/06 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to remove entire pile. 2/16-6/1/06. - Ruts should be smoothed out and additional controls are needed. 5/25-6/1/06 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Needs attention when feasible. -Needs attention A sign has been installed to prevent further damage
Norwalk Section	-Foundations being installed are adjacent to wetlands and waterbodies and most controls are in good shape. 6/1/06.	-Continue to monitor. 6/1/06.	-N/A.
All Sections	- Use caution in clearing trees from wetland areas. Avoid creating ruts when skidding them out. 3/29-6/1/06.	- Retain shrubs and low growth as much as possible, especially at stream buffers. 3/2-6/1/06.	- Needs some improvement in the new section even though only invasive species are present

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	-If a wetland is being used as amphibian breeding habitat, retaining some wood debris at its boundaries may be beneficial. 3/2-6/1/06.	-Carefully remove brush piles and trees from near wetland areas. 3/2-6/1/06. - Watch this near the pool on the new ROW section in Wilton	
State species of concern, threatened and endangered species	- The composite portion of overhead work includes state-listed turtle habitat area. 9/15-6/1/06. -The Eastern box turtle has not been observed since the first sighting but is now in an active season. 4/6-6/1/06.	- Now that weather is warmer, daily walkthroughs should be occurring prior to any work in the area. 4/6-6/1/06.	-N/A at this time
Vegetative clearing limits (including trees to save or danger trees noted)	- Adjacent homeowners near Gallows Hill mentioned damage to mountain laurel and other shrubs. 3/2-6/1/06.	-In general, take care in retaining shrubs and use mats to access or skid out trees from wetlands. 2/22-6/1/06. -Replace shrubs where necessary. 6/1/06	-Needs attention when feasible
Composite	- A significant amount of chips were blown off the ROW into the upland and also along the wetland edge at the 3 rd structure off Gallows Hill. These areas are off property. 2/22-6/1/06. -This was also noted several structures past Archers Lane. 3/15-6/1/06.	- Chips currently off ROW boundaries should be removed carefully to comply with the D&M plan. 2/22-5/25/06. Chips on ROW should be spread to a depth of 3". 4/6-6/1/06.	- Still needs attention CL&P is looking into this.
Norwalk Section	-Clearing was not actively occurring along the ROW past Archers Lane. 6/1/06. -Two cleared corridors are present into Norwalk Junction. It appears that efforts to retain shrubs, especially in wetland areas could have been improved here 5/10-	- To avoid wetland damage, trees here will be sheared from the access road and felled out of the water. 3/15-6/1/06 -The area was largely clearcut when the D&M plan states low growing shrubs can remain. 5/10-6/1/06	- CL&P proposed the work under these specs. -N/A

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	<p>6/1/06.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clearing of new ROW is underway in the Kent Rd. section and it has reached the bank of the pond in the area. 6/1/06 - Efforts were made to retain stumps along the bank but adjacent homeowners have mentioned branches falling into the water. 6/1/06 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Be extremely careful to retain shrubs and vegetation where feasible. 5/25-6/1/06 - Make all attempts to retain vegetation at the bank and to collect branches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Needs some improvement in the new section even though the majority of shrub species present are invasive
Dewatering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No obvious dewatering efforts were noted. 6/1/06. - If this is needed by foundation #68, make sure controls are installed due to the proximity of wetlands. 6/1/06 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Release water to the ground only in well vegetated areas if it will not reach any resource areas. (Make sure to check downgradient for these areas) Otherwise use a filter bag or adequate containment. 3/9-6/1/06. 	-N/A at this time
Blasting	-No blasting has been necessary at this time on the ROW. 6/1/06.	-None at this time. 6/1/06.	-N/A
Spills and Material Storage	-None of the parked or active equipment was leaking at the time of inspection. 3/15-6/1/06.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to keep all vehicles maintained well (i.e. no apparent fluid leaks) if they will be used or stored on site - Keep adequately size fuel kits for worst case scenarios. - Report spills immediately, even if they are being controlled. - Avoid refueling in the areas near the wetlands. Use proper storage for all materials. 	-N/A
Additional Observations			

Next likely scheduled

inspection: Wednesday June 7, 2006

I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted in this document and all attachments and certify that based on reasonable investigation, including my inquiry of those individuals responsible for obtaining the information, the submitted information is true, accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief, and I understand that any false statements made in this document or its attachments may be punishable as a criminal offense in accordance with Section 22a-6 under Section 53a-157 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Inspector's Signature: Diana Walden for Don Ukers



(Composite Section): Photo on the left shows an area of silt fence that was nearly overtopped along the access road in the ROW past Archers Lane. Photo on the right shows the wood chip area remaining on the ROW past Gallows Hill Rd. 6/1/06



(345kV H-Frame): Photo on the left shows a view of the wetland between structures #10 and 11 with a sign installed to prevent further accidental crossings. Silt fence should be installed across the ROW on both ends and the surface restored where necessary. 6/1/06.



Photo on the left shows a view of the access road and a matted wetland crossing remaining in good shape in the Bethel Reservoir section. Photo on the right shows the matted wetland crossing also in good shape between structures #6-7. 6/1/06.



Photo on the left shows the erosion controls in good shape adjacent to the large wetland near structure#24. Photo on the right shows crews installing shield wire on a structure off Costa Lane. 6/1/06.



(Norwalk Section): Photo on the left shows towers being removed in the Perry Ave area. Photo on the right shows where sediment continues to overtop the silt fence in this area. Crews regularly monitor the fence and pull the silt back. 6/1/06.



Photo on the left shows a structure being removed in the area north of Broad St.. Photo on the right shows a foundation installation off North Seir Hill Rd. where mats had to be used due to wet, muddy conditions. Install fence downgradient of the mats if necessary. 6/1/06



Photo on the left shows an access road within the ROW off Kent Rd. Old towers were being removed in this location. Photo on the right shows a view of the clearing occurring off Kent Rd. in the new ROW. 6/1/06



Photo shows the mats installed for a wetland crossing in the section of new ROW. Silt fence should be installed at the corners and care has to be made to avoid blowing wood chips into the wetland. Photo on the left shows the clearing adjacent to the pond. Crews attempted to retain stumps on the bank. 6/1/06